

REMARKS

I. Status of Claims

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application, and all the claims are rejected.

Claim 1 is amended to recite the materials comprising the impact-resistant resin of the presently claimed invention.

No new matter is added. Accordingly, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

II. Response to Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Prasad et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0082427 A1).

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable, at least for the following reason.

Amended claim 1 recites that the fuel storage chamber is made of impact resistant resin, and the impact resistant resin is selected from the materials listed in claim 1. In contrast, paragraph [0034] of Prasad discloses that it is desirable to construct the outer container 22 of relatively lightweight and inexpensive materials, such as polyethylene, polypropylene, or the like. Therefore Prasad neither teaches nor suggest the use of the impact resistant resins of amended claim 1.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Prasad. Claims 2-3, 5 and 10 are patentable, at least by virtue of their dependence form claim 1. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection based on Prasad is respectfully requested.

III. Response to Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Prasad in view of Yonetsu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,506,513 B1).

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 7-9 are patentable based on Prasad alone, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 1. Yonetsu does not cure the deficiency in Prasad discussed above. Therefore, claims 7-9 are patentable over Prasad in view of Yonetsu, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Carl J. Pellegrini
Registration No. 40,766

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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